15.	Strengthening of Extension Training in the Country	Scheme provides support to training of extension personnel in the States. Also it provides for strengthening training infrastructure like National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Extention Education Institutes (EEIs) and Advanced Training Centres (ATCs).	353 National level training programmes sponsored by Directorate of Extension were organised with 5805 participants. National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) organised 382 courses with 8551 participants. 15 ATCs organised 109 training courses with 3004 participants. 4 EEIs organised 436 training courses with 6789 participants.	Rs. 23.82

Assistance to prevent Root Wilt Disease in Coconut Trees

914. SHRI A. VIJYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any representation from the Kerala Government for assistance to prevent Root wilt disease spreading in coconut trees in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to assist the coconut farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) A Project for Development of Coconut Farming System at a total cost of Rs. 562.21 crore was received from Government of

Kerala in September, 1997. The Project envisages eradication of coconut palms affected by advanced stage root-wilt disease in order to check the spread of the disease and improve the productivity of existing palms. Most of the measures suggested *viz.* cutting and removal of root-wilt affected palms; productivity improvement; inter-cropping/mixed farming; irrigation facilities; support for harvesting and value-addition etc. are already being supported under different programmes of the Coconut Development Board (CDB).

During 1997-98, out of a total outlay of Rs. 20.00 crore for various coconut development programmes, the CDB released Rs. 12.44 crore to the State of Kerala. During 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 12.38 crore was released. The allocation for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 9.27 crores. During the period 1987-88 to 1998-99, 13.88 lakh root-wilt affected palms were removed, for which an amount of Rs. 20.31 crores was spent by the CDB as payment of compensation.

Suction Dredgers for Bhavanapedu Fishing Harbour

915. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to accede to the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to deploy suction dredgers received from Japan for dredging at Bhavanapedu Fishing Harbour to enable big ships and fish trawlers to enter the port; and

(b) the measures taken to comply with the request made in March 1999?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Based on the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the trailing Suction Hopper Dredger, TSD Sindhuraj has been deployed at Bhavanapadu Fishing Harbour in Andhra Pradesh for maintenance dredging.

Subsidy for Food Processing Industries

916. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidy and other facilities are granted for the entrepreneur to set up food processing industry;